



**VA Health Care
Upstate New York**

Team Up With Us

Samuel S. Stratton VA Medical Center
113 Holland Avenue
Albany, NY 12208

Visit Us At www.visn2.va.gov

April 2011

Peter Potter

Public Affairs Officer

Phone: (518) 626-5522

[e-Mail: Peter.Potter@va.gov](mailto:Peter.Potter@va.gov)

Morton Miller Honored

Morton Miller volunteered at the Albany Stratton VA Medical Center for thirty-seven years helping Veterans. This year he was nominated for the 2011 Jefferson Awards. He was one of 18 finalists who were recognized for their extraordinary volunteer work at a recognition dinner held at the Century House on Monday, April 4, 2011.

Mr. Miller was cited for his volunteer work in securing a van for Schenectady Veterans to provide them transportation to and from their VA medical appointments; recruiting other veterans to become volunteer VA drivers; annually volunteering for the Capital Region Homeless Veterans Stand Down as a driver; and serving on the Saratoga National Cemetery Support Committee and encouraging donations to support VA recreation therapy events.

Mr. Morton is 89 years old and in perfect health passing VA's rigorous physical to become a VA driver. He also has 58 years of driving experience under his belt as a bus driver.

When asked to comment on his award Mr. Morton stated he was in the Army infantry for 4 years in WWII in the South Pacific Theater and there he saw a lot of his fellow soldiers get injured worse than himself - "there for the grace of God go I" He says he gets a lot of satisfaction helping others and will keep going as long as he can. He has no intentions of stopping and when he can't drive anymore, he'll continue being the scheduling coordinator for the Schenectady van.

The American Institute for Public Service was created in 1972 by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, US Senator Robert Taft Jr. and Sam Beard. This public foundation established the Jefferson Awards, a Nobel Prize for community and public service. In 1977 the Jefferson Awards embarked on a media partnership with local newspapers and TV stations to highlight community service in America.

The Jefferson Awards are presented at both the national and local levels. The local level recognizes individuals who are committed to improving their communities through volunteer and community services. ***The honorees are ordinary people who accomplish extraordinary things.***